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CITY OF HARTFORD PREPARES FOR DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION

---NEWS RELEASE---

(July 17, 2008)--- The City of Hartford is helping residents understand that television is officially going digital as of February 17, 2009--- that's seven months from today. As a way to provide information to make this a seamless transition, the City of Hartford is airing public service announcements on Government Cable Access TV, Channel 21 and posting information and links on its webpage www.hartford.gov, including this news release. Additional communications will continue to be made to residents between now and the changeover date to remind people of when and why this is happening.

For more than 50 years, television broadcasters have used the "analog" signal. After February 17th of next year, the switch will be made to digital. The Federal Government is making this change to improve public safety. The transition to digital will help police, fire, and other public safety departments to communicate more easily with each other during emergencies.

For you, the consumer, you will receive a better picture and sound quality, as well as more programming choices.

If your TVs are hooked up to cable or satellite, you will still be able to watch your favorite shows after the switch. You are asked to check with your local cable or satellite company just to be sure. If your TVs are more than 10-years old, they are probably not digital. If you use a roof top antenna or "rabbit ears" you will not be able to get a signal after February 17, 2009 unless you get a converter box.

The converter box will attach to your TV so that you can continue to receive free TV. You may buy a converter box for \$40-\$70 each. You can also get two \$40 coupons per household. **For more information about the digital transition, call toll free 1-888-225-5322 or go to www.dtv.gov. For more information about converters and coupons call toll free 1-888-388-2009 or log on to www.dtv2009.gov.**